

MACAULAY'S USE OF LITERATURE

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the accounts in the newspapers or the news
circulated in
the London streets at the moment. Of this class
of ballads
Macaulay makes practically no use at all,
though he men-
tions in one of his notes the contemporary
ballad on the
battle of La Hogue as 'one of the best
specimens of English
street poetry'.¹

One more use of the ballads may be
mentioned. They
are good evidence for popular traditions just as
they are for
popular feelings. In chapter v, Macaulay has a
digression
on the fondness with which Monmouth's
memory was
cherished by the people in the West, the
belief that the
man who was executed on Tower Hill was not
Monmouth
but someone else, and that the Protestant
hero was still
alive and would show himself in the West
again. He
supports this very aptly by a quotation from a
ballad,
written after Monmouth's death, which
represents him as
living and promising that he will come again.

Though this is a dismal story
Of the fall of my design
Yet Til come again in glory,
If I live till eighty-nine.²

This is from a ballad printed about 1685. In
another case
Macaulay quotes a ballad handed down by
tradition, not
printed. Speaking of the trial of the Seven
Bishops, and
popular feeling in Cornwall in behalf of
Trelawney the
Bishop of Bristol, he says: 'All over the country
the peasants

chanted a ballad of which the burden is still remembered.

" And shall Trelawney die and shall Trelawney die?
Then thirty thousand Cornish boys will know
the reason
why/'

¹ V, 2190 n. (xviii). Admiral Russell's Scowering the French Fleet: or, The Battle at Sea (Naval Songs and Ballads, pp. 119-20).
- II, 622, n. (v).